

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, GR, TU

SUBJECT: PRESS REACTION TO THE AEGEAN DISPUTE

REF: ATHENSBKP8FF #

1. GREEK MILITARY PREPAREDNESS AND VIGILANCE AS WELL AS THE
C. L. SULZBERGER NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE ON GREEK-TURKISH
RELATIONS CAPTURED THE HEADLINES IN THE GREEK PRESS TODAY.
APPARENTLY BASED ON GOVERNMENT BACKGROUNDING, THE NEWSPAPERS
WERE UNANIMOUS IN HIGHLIGHTING WHAT WAS REFERRED TO AS
INFORMATION FROM "WELL-INFORMED SOURCES"
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THAT CERTAIN NEW STEPS OF MILITARY PREPAREDNESS HAD BEEN TAKEN,

SUCH AS: POSTPONING LEAVES OF MILITARY OFFICERS,
TRANSFERRING NAVAL UNITS AND AIRCRAFT, AND AN INSPECTION
TRIP BY ARMY CHIEF GENERAL DAVOS TO THE FRONTIER ZONE
ALONG THE EVROS REGION. HOWEVER, ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE
ABOVE MEASURES THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE REPLIED "NO COMMENT."
(MOST ADDRESSEES WILL ALSO HAVE SEEN DAO ATHENS IR 68370252
DTG 121143Z AUG 76 ON THIS SUBJECT).

2. RECEIVING EQUAL, AND, IN SOME CASES, EVEN MORE
PROMINENT TREATMENT, WAS THE COVERAGE OF THE SULZBERGER
ARTICLE APPEARING YESTERDAY IN THE NEW YORK TIMES (AND
ALSO IN THE INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE) ON THE AEGEAN
DISPUTE, WITH THE PRESS PLACING EMPHASIS ON SULZBERGER'S
CALL FOR THE U.S. TO ADOPT A MORE PRO-GREEK STANCE IN
THE UPCOMING SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE. THE AFTERNOON
PRESS DEVOTED CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION TO A RELATED REPORT
BY THE ATHENS NEW AGENCY FROM NEW YORK CLAIMING THAT THE
SULZBERGER ARTICLE WAS CHARACTERISTIC OF A NEW PRO-GREEK
SPIRIT IN WASHINGTON.

3. SECONDARY STORIES CENTERED AROUND PREPARATIONS
FOR THE ACTUAL SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE ITSELF AND COUNTS
OF FAVORABLE REACTION TO GREECE'S POSITION REPORTEDLY
APPEARING IN THE INTERNATIONAL, ESPECIALLY THE WEST EUROPEAN
PRESS. SECRETARY KISSINGER'S MEETING WITH DUTCH
FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL, AND THE SECRETARY'S
COMMENTS ON THE AEGEAN CRISIS URGING RESTRAINT BY BOTH
SIDES AND DESIRABILITY OF A PEACEFUL SOLUTION ALSO
WERE ACCORDED WIDESPREAD TREATMENT. INTERMINGLED IN
THE REPORTING ARE SUGGESTIONS AND IMPLICATIONS
THAT THE U.S. AND THE SECRETARY MIGHT MEDIATE OR
BECOME MORE ACTIVE BEHIND THE SCENES TO FIND A SOLUTION.
THE TURKISH REJECTION OF THE SECOND GREEK NOTE RECEIVED
COVERAGE AS DID THE GOG'S DETERMINATION TO LET
ANY FURTHER REPLY TO THE GOT AWAIT THE SECURITY
COUNCIL DEBATE.

4. EDITORIALLY, THE PRESS HAD LITTLE NEW TO ADD TO
PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED OPINIONS. SOME NEWSPAPERS
CONTINUED THEIR CALL FOR NATIONAL UNITY WHILE OTHERS
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POINTED TO AN ALLEGED INTERNATIONAL CONSPIRACY AGAINST
GREECE MANIFESTED THROUGH THE TURKISH ACTIONS.
COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE EXTERIOR RIZOSPASTIS ALLEGED
EDITORIALLY THAT THE U.S. HAD OPPOSED GREECE'S SEEKING
RE COURSE TO THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL, AND URGED THAT,
THEREFORE, GREECE SHOULD OBSERVE AT THE COUNCIL
MEETING WHICH NATIONS WERE TRULY HER FRIENDS.

KUBISCH

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